

Submitter:

Rachel Pollak

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB149

I am in support of expanding the avenues available to the state to aid refugees, as well as expanding the definition of who can be aided to include asylees and parolees. This is good, sound legislation that will help many people--individuals, families, my neighbors. It will also more fairly distribute the work of helping refugees so that our helping organizations and state agencies don't get overwhelmed and more people have access.

We are moving into a period where the federal government is placing terrible burdens on the people coming to our country in search of a better life. I would like Oregon to be a refuge in the midst of the chaos and persecution. This isn't just a philanthropic impulse; immigrants and refugees are good for economies. They also enrich our local creative and intellectual spheres of life. We need them almost as much as the other way around.

Thank you for your attention. Please vote in support of this wonderful measure.